

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for facilitating printing, comprising the steps of:
providing to a consumer a first printer containing a fixed amount of imaging substance;
receiving back from said consumer said first printer after a substantial portion of
5 said imaging substance has been used; and
exchanging said first printer with an exchange printer.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of recycling said first printer received from said consumer.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein said imaging substance is contained in a reservoir.
4. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of configuring said first printer to restrict access to said reservoir to authorized personnel.
5. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing in said first printer a secured compartment containing said reservoir to restrict access to said reservoir.
6. The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of providing in said first printer a secured compartment containing a printing mechanism and said reservoir, said secured compartment restricting access to said printing mechanism and said reservoir.
7. The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of communicating print data to said printing mechanism in said secured compartment.
8. The method of claim 3, wherein said first printer is an ink jet printer including a printing mechanism, said method further comprising the step configuring said ink jet printer to restrict access to said printing mechanism and said reservoir.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of communicating print data to said printing mechanism in said secured compartment.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring said first printer to operate only in a single printing mode.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring said first printer to use only a single print media type.

12. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of configuring said first printer to use only a single print media size.

13. A printer, comprising:

a printing mechanism;

a reservoir connected to said printing mechanism, said reservoir containing an imaging substance supply; and

5 a control unit containing a printer driver for said printing mechanism, said control unit being configured to perform the steps of:

sensing a connection to a computer; and

uploading said printer driver from said controller to said computer after sensing said connection to said computer.

14. The printer of claim 13, wherein said control unit performs said uploading without operator intervention.

15. The printer of claim 13, further comprising a secured compartment containing said printing mechanism and said reservoir, said secured compartment being configured to restrict access to said printing mechanism and said reservoir.

16. The printer of claim 15, wherein said printer is recycled when a substantial amount of said imaging substance supply contained in said reservoir is exhausted.

17. The printer of claim 13, further comprising a clear display cover having a slot for receiving an information sheet.

18. The printer of claim 17, wherein said information sheet includes a retailer logo.

19. An imaging apparatus, comprising:

a printing mechanism;

a reservoir connected to said printing mechanism, said reservoir containing an imaging substance supply;

5 a secured compartment containing at least said reservoir, said secured compartment being configured to restrict access to said reservoir; and

a communication port configured to receive print data, said communication port being communicatively coupled to said printing mechanism, and said communication port being accessible from outside said secured compartment.

20. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, wherein said secured compartment is sealed by a manufacturer of said imaging apparatus.

21. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, wherein said secured compartment includes a print media port for receiving a sheet of print media.

22. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, wherein said secured compartment includes a media port for receiving a print media tray.

23. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, wherein said secured compartment further contains said printing mechanism, said secured compartment being configured to restrict access to said printing mechanism.

24. The imaging apparatus of claim 23, wherein said printing mechanism comprises:

a reciprocating printhead carrier; and

a printhead fixed to said reciprocating printhead carrier.

25. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, wherein said printing mechanism comprises:

a reciprocating printhead carrier; and

an ink jet printhead fixed to said reciprocating printhead carrier.

26. The imaging apparatus of claim 19, further comprising a clear display cover having a slot for receiving an information sheet.

27. The imaging apparatus of claim 26, wherein said information sheet includes a retailer logo.

28. A method for facilitating imaging, comprising the steps of:

providing to a consumer a first recyclable imaging apparatus having a secured compartment containing a reservoir containing an initial amount of imaging substance, said secured compartment restricting access to said reservoir, said initial amount of
5 imaging substance including a licensed amount of imaging substance and a surplus amount of imaging substance; and

receiving from said consumer a request for license renewal, wherein upon a grant of said request for license renewal said surplus amount of imaging substance is available for use in said first recyclable imaging apparatus.

29. The method of claim 28, further comprising the steps of:

receiving from said consumer said first recyclable imaging apparatus after a substantial portion of said surplus amount of imaging substance has been used; and
5 exchanging said first recyclable imaging apparatus with a second recyclable imaging apparatus.